

## Additional Membership to the P-16 Council

Action: The staff recommends that the council extend the membership of the P-16 Council to include Kim Townley, executive director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, and Allen Rose, secretary of the Cabinet for Workforce Development.

The state P-16 Council was formed in 1999 by agreement of the State Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education to advise both agencies on policy matters affecting the movement of students from pre-kindergarten through the baccalaureate. Initially, P-16 Council membership included board and council members, as well as the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Commissioner of Education.

Because the preparation and professional development of teachers has such direct bearing on student achievement, membership on the P-16 Council was extended last year to include the Executive Director and Chair of the Education Professional Standards Board.

The quality of early childhood education affects later educational success. Linking education and workforce development is important to realize the economic benefits of education for individuals and society. Representatives from these two entities will provide the P-16 Council with a fuller perspective to address the education policy needs of the Commonwealth.